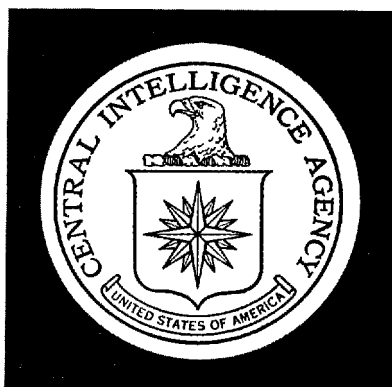


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Chile-Cuba: The resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba is increasingly talked about, but no early action appears likely.

Last week the president of President Frei's Christian Democratic Party stated that the party favors "the reintegration of Cuba into the inter-American system" and would support the government if it decided to renew diplomatic relations with Cuba. Foreign Minister Valdes told the US ambassador that he believes a normalization of relations between the US and Cuba would have very positive effects in Latin America. He added that information from Chileans who have been in Europe and Cuba indicates that Castro is not interested in a "military pact of the Warsaw variety" or in continuing his export of revolution.

There is no evidence that Cuba is interested in re-establishing relations with Chile. Havana's consistently hostile attitude toward the Frei administration is evidenced by the continuation of Radio Havana's specially prepared propaganda broadcasts to Chile which depict Frei as a puppet of the US. Although Cuban support for Latin American guerrillas has declined somewhat since the death of Che Guevara in Bolivia in late 1967, "export of the revolution" remains a basic tenet of the Castro regime.

The Christian Democratic declaration probably is intended primarily as an electoral ploy to attract leftist votes in the congressional elections in March. Despite the possible desires of Chileans like Valdes, President Frei has told the US ambassador that he plans no change in Chile's policy toward Cuba.

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